

Amendments to the Claims

1-35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) An elongated sheet of light gauge metal from which one or more truss chord members may be formed, said sheet comprising along the length thereof one or more pairs of opposing notches, ~~the portion of said sheet between said opposing notches forming apertured portions of reduced width, the portion of said sheet intermediate each of said pairs of opposing notches forming a respective narrow portion, wherein at least one of said narrow portions includes a grid of apertures.~~

37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) The sheet of Claim ~~37~~ 36 wherein said grid of apertures is at least six inches long.

39. (Currently Amended) The sheet of Claim ~~37~~ 36 wherein said grid of apertures includes at least twenty spaced apart apertures.

40-71. (Canceled)

72. (Previously Presented) A blank from which one or more truss chord members may be formed, said blank comprising an elongated sheet of light gauge metal having at least two wide portions with substantially parallel longitudinal edges and a narrow portion intermediate said wide portions, said narrow portion having substantially parallel longitudinal edges each spaced from the longitudinal axis of said sheet a distance less than the longitudinal edges of said wide portions, said narrow portion including a grid of apertures.

73 (New) The blank of Claim 72 wherein said grid of apertures is

disposed substantially adjacent to at least one of the longitudinal edges of said narrow portion.

74. (New) The blank of Claim 72 wherein said grid of apertures is at least six inches long.

75. (New) The blank of Claim 72 wherein said grid of apertures includes at least twenty spaced apart apertures.

76. (New) The blank of Claim 72 wherein at least one of said wide portions includes a further grid of apertures.

77. (New) The blank of Claim 72 wherein said grid of apertures is disposed between one of said longitudinal edges of said narrow portion and the longitudinal axis of said sheet; said blank further comprising a second grid of apertures disposed between the other longitudinal edge of said narrow portion and the longitudinal axis of said sheet.

78. (New) The blank of Claim 72 comprising a pair of aperture grids positioned substantially symmetrically about the longitudinal axis of said sheet.

79. (New) The blank of Claim 72 comprising at least one aperture disposed symmetrically about the longitudinal axis of said sheet with one of the apertures in said grid of apertures.

80. (New) The blank of Claim 72 wherein said narrow portion has a pair of opposing notches disposed along the length thereof.